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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

HEADQUARTERS 3D BATTALION, 6TH ARTILLERY (U)

RPO 96348

AUG 13 1970

AVGG-BA-OR

1 May 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 30 April 1967.
(RGS-ORR-45) (U)

See Distribution

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SECTION I (U) SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION OR UNIT ACTIVITIES

1. (U) General:

a. The organizational structure of the 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery, 105mm SP, M108 consists of a headquarters and headquarters battery, service battery, and three firing batteries. (see inclosure 1).

b. During the period 26 February to 17 March, the battalion sponsored the 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery, newly arrived in the Republic of Vietnam.

c. During the period 12-14 April, the battalion was inspected by the USARV IG inspection team. As a result of this inspection, it was the consensus of the inspection team that the mission of the battalion was being accomplished in a highly effective manner within available resources and under existing conditions.

2. (U) Intelligence: Several observers were committed to aerial visual reconnaissance (VR) missions which resulted in sightings of numerous hamlets, trails, entrenchments, bridges, and suspected enemy personnel. Several of these locations have been used as harassing and interdiction targets by artillery units in the Pleiku area.

3. (U) Operations and training activities.

a. Operations:

(1) From 1 February until 5 April (64 days), the battalion was in direct support (DS) of Task Force 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, 4th Infantry Division and Task Force 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, 25th Infantry Division on Operation Sam Houston. During the period 5-30 April (26 days), the battalion was in direct support of both of these task forces engaged in Operation Francis Marion.

(2) From 1 February to 20 March, Battery A occupied a position along route 509 west of Pleiku City with the mission of DS Task Force 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry providing security of route 509. The battery fired harassing and interdiction missions, defensive concentrations, registrations, and destruction missions during this period. One destruction mission fired into a hidden village at grid YL954481 resulted in damage to two huts and the destruction of three others.

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(RCS CSFOR-65)(U)

(3) From 1 February until 24 April, Battery D occupied a position at grid BR03495335 along highway 19 east of Pleiku City with the mission DS Task Force 1st Battalion, 69th Armor providing security of highway 19. While in this position, the battery fired destruction missions, defensive concentrations, harassing and interdiction missions, and registrations. One destruction mission fired on grid AR951578 resulted in the destruction of 13 huts. Another mission fired by the battery on 17 April into grid YA913451 resulted in 4 possible enemy KIA.

(4) From 1 February until 12 March, Battery C occupied a position along route 509 west of Pleiku City with a mission of DS Task Force 1st Squadron, 10 Cavalry providing security of route 509. The battery fired landing zone preparations, registrations, and harassing and interdiction missions during this period.

(5) On 1 February, Battery B, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery was attached to 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery and was positioned at grid AR996608 until 24 February with the mission of DS Task Force 1st Battalion, 69th Armor providing security of highway 19 east of Pleiku City. While in this position, the battery fired harassing and interdiction missions, defensive concentrations, registrations, and destruction missions.

(6) During the period 2-5 February, Battery B moved three howitzers to grid AR996605 in support of Company B, 2d Battalion, 35th Infantry on a search and destroy operation. During this operation, a bridge located at grid AR986700 was taken under fire and destroyed by Battery B.

(7) On 12, 13, and 14 February, the firing batteries calibrated all howitzers with chronograph support from higher headquarters.

(8) On 14 February, the battalion fired its 50,000th round since arrival in the Republic of Vietnam. The 52d Artillery Group commander had the honor of firing this round from the 1st howitzer section, Battery A. The battalion commander fired the 50,000th round from the howitzer of 3rd howitzer section, Battery A. The battalion has fired a total of 71,236 rounds in Vietnam as of 30 April 1967.

(9) On 17 February, two howitzers from Battery B moved to grid AR946458 in the vicinity of Ia Kung to support a one day armored operation.

(10) From 20-22 February, three howitzers from Battery B moved to grid AR956439 along highway 19 east of Pleiku City in support of an armored operation.

(11) On 23 February, Battery A, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery was placed OPCON 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery and was located at grid BR12105496 along highway 19 east of Pleiku City until 14 April, providing security of the highway. During this period the battery, along with Battery B, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery, was credited with firing missions on grids BR082440, BR082439, and BR069452 which resulted in 20 bunkers and 5 huts destroyed, and 2 secondary explosions.

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(12) From 24 February until 18 March, Battery B, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery occupied a position at Oasis (ZA100277), with the mission of DS Task Force 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry. The battery fired defensive concentrations, registrations, and harassing and interdiction missions during this period.

(13) On 5 March, three howitzers from Battery B moved to grid AR996607 with the mission DS Task Force 1st Battalion, 69th Armor and elements of 3d Squadron, 4th Cavalry on a one day search and destroy operation.

(14) From 12-14 March, Battery C moved to grid BQ503599 (Phu Tuc) in support of company size elements of Task Force 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry on a road runner/escort operation.

(15) From 14 March to 16 April, Battery C occupied a position approximately 12 miles west of Pleiku City along route 509 with a mission DS Task Force 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry providing security of route 509. During this period the battery fired registrations, defensive concentrations, and harassing and interdiction missions.

(16) On 18 March, Battery B, 7th Battalion, 13th Artillery was released from attachment to 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery and returned to control of parent battalion.

(17) From 18-26 March, Battery A, 4th Battalion, 42d Artillery was CPCON 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery and positioned at grid ZA10722736 with the mission of DS Task Force 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry providing security of highway 19 west of Pleiku City.

(18) From 20-24 March, Battery A occupied several positions east of Ia Lop River from grid AR793137 to grid AR846041 in support of B Troop, Task Force 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry and CIDG elements on an area reconnaissance operation. During this operation, the battery was credited with 3 confirmed NVA KIA at grid ZA246078.

(19) From 24 March to 3 April, Battery A occupied several positions along route 509 between grids YA96664160 and ZA15524838 with a mission DS Task Force 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry providing road security. The battery fired defensive concentrations, registrations, neutralization, and harassing and interdiction missions during this period.

(20) During the period 3-8 April, Battery A, with elements of Task Force 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, provided road escort for engineer units from Pleiku to Hue Lap via Ban Ho Thuet and return.

(21) On 8 April, Battery C and battalion forward tactical operations center received 15 rounds of mixed 60mm and 82mm mortar which resulted in minor damage to 5 vehicles, one 1.5 KW generator and one 1/2 ton trailer. There were no personnel casualties. Battery C fired counter-mortar program with negative surveillance.

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(22) From 8-29 April, Battery A occupied a position at Cateoka (ZA1643343) with a mission DS Task Force 1st Squadron, 10 Cavalry. During this period, the battery fired defensive concentrations, registrations, illumination, and harassing and interdiction missions.

(23) On 11 April, Battery A, 5th Battalion, 16th Artillery was released from OPCON 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery and reverted to control of parent battalion. Battery A, 1st Battalion, 92d Artillery was given the mission GSR 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery and occupied their present position at grid IR12105496 providing security of highway 19 east of Pleiku City.

(24) From 16-23 April, Battery C occupied a position at grid YA859534 (Old Plei Djerong) with a mission GSR 4th Battalion, 42d Artillery in support of 1st Battalion, 22d Infantry, 4th Infantry Division on a sweeping operation east to southeast of Plei Djerong.

(25) From 23-30 April, Battery C occupied positions along highway 19 east of Pleiku City with the mission of DS Task Force 1st Battalion, 69th Armor, and to provide fire support for the Pleiku area. The battery fired registrations, defensive concentrations, and harassing and interdiction missions during this period.

(26) On 26 April, Battery B moved to Dragon Mountain (AR79203421) overnight and prepared for a road escort mission to vicinity of Phu Nhon on 27 April.

(27) From 26-28 April, three howitzers from Battery C occupied a position at grid BR03495333 with the mission of DS Task Force 1st Battalion, 69th Armor providing security of highway 19 east of Pleiku City. This forward element of Battery C fired defensive concentrations, registrations, and harassing and interdiction missions during this period.

(28) From 27-28 April, Battery B moved from Dragon Mountain to vicinity of Phu Nhon (AQ86909895 and AQ91967679) in support of elements of Task Force 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry on a road runner/escort operation. During this period, the battery supported the 47th ARVN Regiment with two forward observers, and fired a landing zone preparation and neutralization missions on an operation west of Phu Nhon.

(29) On 28 April, three howitzers, Battery C, returned to grid AR88304900, the battery's field CP location.

(30) From 28-30 April, Battery B occupied a position at grid BR03495333 with a mission of DS Task Force 1st Battalion, 69th Armor providing security of highway 19 east of Pleiku City.

(31) On 29 April, Battery A moved to grid AR779245 to support elements of 1st Battalion 22d Infantry, 4th Infantry Division on an overnight search and destroy operation south of Dragon Mountain along highway 14.

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(32) On 30 April, Battery A moved to grid ZA16185337 with the mission of DS Task Force 1st Squadron, 10 Cavalry.

b. Training:

(1) Training in all required mandatory subjects was conducted at battery level. In addition, subjects of command interest such as artillery crew proficiency and fire direction/gunnery procedures were conducted on a daily basis at each firing battery field location. A mandatory subject training program for newly arrived CONUS replacements has been implemented, and training is accomplished at base camp within seven days after arrival in the unit.

(2) Familiarization firing and battlesight zero of individual and crew served weapons was conducted during the reporting period.

(3) Elements of the battalion were involved in some form of training every day of the reporting period, thus 90 days of training were conducted.

SECTION II (C) COMMANDER'S OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Part I, Observations (Lessons Learned)

(C) Logistics:

Item: Truck, 2½ ton, M35A2.

Discussion: Bolts supporting the front engine mount to the engine support blades work loose, developing elongated holes, thereby causing the engine ejector pump to ride on the steering gear. This situation requires that the driver stop the truck every 10 miles when traveling over rough terrain, and tighten bolts supporting the front engine mount to the engine support blades.

Observation: The use of lock plates such as those found on the M113 Armored Personnel Carrier should be used to lock bolts supporting the front engine mount to the engine support blades.

Part II, Recommendations: None

1 Incl

Bn organizational diagram

James R. Stevenson
JAMES R. STEVENSON
Major, Artillery
Acting Commander

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AVHGC-DST (1 May 67)

1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96307 8 JUN 1967

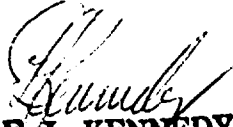
TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-OT,
APO 96558

1. This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the period ending 30 April 1967 from Headquarters, 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery as indorsed.

2. Concur with the basic report as modified by the comments contained in the preceding indorsements. They adequately address the problem areas and further comment is considered unnecessary.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

1 Incl
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E. L. KENNEDY
CPT, AGC
Asst Adjutant General

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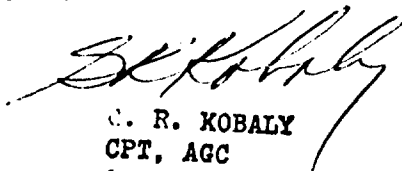
GPOP-OT(1 May 67) 2d Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the Period Ending
30 April 1967 (RCS CSFOR-65), HQ 3d Bn, 6th Arty

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 26 JUN 1967

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in the basic report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


C. R. KOBALY
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

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AVFA-GC-OT (1 May 67) 3d Ind
SUBJECT: Operational Report of Lessons Learned for Quarterly Period
Ending 30 April 1967 (U)

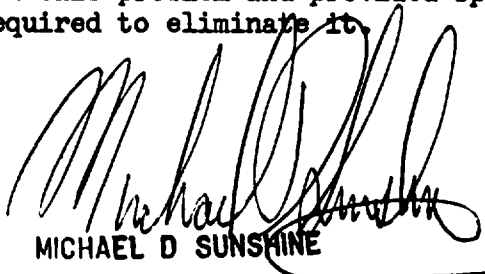
HEADQUARTERS, I FIELD FORCE VIETNAM, APO 96350 2 JUN 1967

TO: Commanding General, United States Army Vietnam, APO 96307

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the contents of the 3d Battalion, 6th Artillery operational report for the quarterly period ending 30 April 1967 and the preceding indorsements with the following comment.

2. (C) Reference Section II, Part I - Observation: Concur. 1st Logistical Command message (U) AVCA-GM-A 08662, dtg 161023Z May 67, subject: Frequent Loosening of Front Engine Mounting P.lts and Nuts on 2½ Ton Truck M35A2, which was retransmitted to all I FFORCEV OPCON units on 18 May 1967, cited this problem and provided specific guidance on corrective action required to eliminate it.

FOR THE COMMANDER:


MICHAEL D SUNSHINE
1LT, AGC
ASST AG

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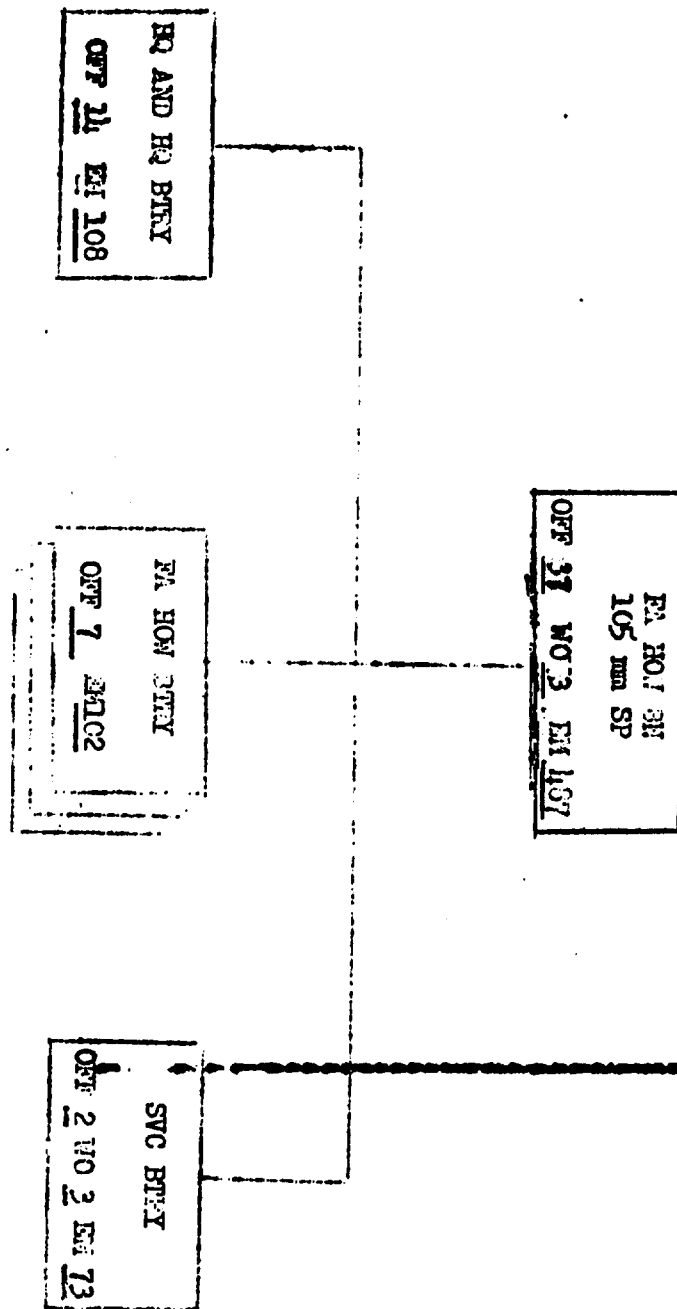
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ORGANIZATION

3D HOITZEL BATTALION 6TH AFFILIATE

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